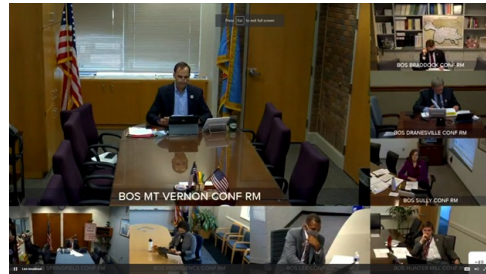


February 23, 2021



This week began the County's FY 2022 Budget process, with the presentation of the [County Executive's Proposed FY 2022 Advertised Budget Plan](#). Similar to the revised FY 2021 Budget, this year's budget plan maintains a **conservative budget posture** to allow us to remain nimble and **adjust to the economic recovery needs of our residents, non-profits and businesses.**



Highlights of the proposed budget include:

- Recommends **1-cent Real Estate Tax rate decrease** from \$1.15 to \$1.14 per \$100 of assessed value.
- Recommends **\$14.13 million increase to County schools.**
- Does not recommend County employee pay increases.
- Recommends an additional **\$20 million to an Economic Recovery Reserve.**
- Funds **modest investments in Board priorities**, including Public Safety staffing, Diversion First, Opioid Use Prevention Efforts, Environmental Initiatives, Body Worn Camera Program and Health Department positions.
- Recommends **16 positions for the South County Police Station.**
- Recommends support for the [Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Plan](#) (strategies that help the County, residents and community members prepare and respond to **direct climate threats.**)

I know that many **residents have struggled** due to a **loss of income** and other challenges during the pandemic. I appreciate that the County Executive has proposed a **budget that reflects these uncertain financial times**, and is a responsible starting point for discussion. This proposed budget **does not meet every community need**, but shows our **commitment to preserving County programs** and working to **protect our residents** in these uncertain times. I also recognize that while a **Real Estate Tax rate decrease is proposed**, with rising real estate assessments, this will mean a **tax increase in some cases and decrease in others**, depending on your property value. More details on the proposed budget can be found below and in the [Citizen's Guide to the proposed budget](#).

I will be hosting my **Budget Town Meeting** with School Board Member **Karen Corbett Sanders** on **Monday, March 1 at 7 p.m.** [More information...](#)

Additional Meeting Highlights:

1. Received presentation from the [Chairman's Task Force on Equity and Opportunity](#).
2. Prohibited use of **plastic bags for yard waste collection.**
3. Added **Jeff Todd Way** to the Secondary System of State Highways.

You can read more about COVID-19 updates, **upcoming community meetings** and information below.

Respectfully yours in public service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Smith".

The following are **highlights from the Board of Supervisors February 23, 2021 meeting**, including items of particular interest to Mount Vernon residents. For additional information, please go to the [County's Board Agenda and Meeting Schedule](#). You may listen to highlights from the Board meeting on your computer or listen directly on iTunes. Subscribe to the podcast, or choose a program and listen in.

Para recibir la información de **nuestro boletín electrónico en español**, o **para hablar con un hispanohablante**, comuníquese con **Diego Rodriguez Cabrera** a su preferencia, por teléfono al (703) 619-4339 o por correo electrónico: diego.rodriquezcabrera@fairfaxcounty.gov.

To view the February 23, 2021 Board Package [click here](#).

Proposed FY 2022 Advertised Budget Plan

County Executive Bryan Hill presented the **FY 2022 Advertised (proposed) Budget Plan** to the Board of Supervisors. The budget maintains the **streamlined, conservative approach** reflected in the revised FY 2021 Budget approved by the Board of Supervisors last May. Budget highlights include a **one-cent Real Estate Tax Rate reduction**, an **Economic Recovery Reserve Fund** and modest **increases for the County and schools**. Factoring in **rising residential real estate assessments and the one-cent reduction** in the Real Estate Tax Rate, from \$1.15 to \$1.14 per \$100 of assessed value, the **average tax bill would increase by approximately \$224** based on the Budget proposal.

The proposed **General Fund budget is \$4.49 billion, a \$16.51 million increase over the FY 2021 Adopted Budget**. Including other appropriated funds such as federal and state grants, the **total proposed FY 2022 Budget is \$8.52 billion**.



GENERAL FUND BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Revenue

- A Real Estate Tax rate decrease of 1.0 cent (from \$1.15 to \$1.14 per \$100 of assessed value) is proposed
 - Results in an increase in the average tax bill of approximately \$224
- Revenue growth in FY 2022 is projected at 1.51% — which provides \$42.52 million for County and School priorities

Disbursements

- Includes overall increases for County and Schools of 0.55%
- Provides an \$14.13 million increase for School Operating, far short of \$104.40 million requested by School Board
 - Request includes \$60.3 million local match to state funding to provide 3 percent compensation adjustment for FCPS employees
- No funding for compensation adjustments for County employees
- Addresses Board priorities such as Pandemic Response Efforts, Diversion First, Opioid Use Prevention Efforts, Body-Worn Cameras, and Police and Fire positions
- Supports \$180 million in School Bond sales and \$120 million in County bond sales
- County positions are increased by a net of 109 positions
- Sets aside \$20 million in reserve which can be focused on economic recovery

A revised draft of the Countywide Strategic Plan is being released concurrent with the budget. Adjustments included in the budget are categorized by one of the nine Priority Outcome areas as identified during the development of the Strategic Plan.

GENERAL FUND BUDGET SUMMARY			
(Amounts shown are in millions, net change over FY 2021 Adopted Budget Plan)			
Available Revenue Increase			
Revenue Increase at Current Real Estate Tax Rate			\$69.37
Real Estate Tax Rate Decrease of One Cent			(\$27.14)
Net Impact of Transfers In			\$0.29
Total Available			\$42.52
FY 2021 Requirements			
	County	Schools	Total
County Compensation	(\$1.97)	—	(\$1.97)
County Debt Service	\$0.28	—	\$0.28
Lifelong Education and Learning	(\$0.01)	\$13.07	\$13.06
Safety and Security	\$11.91	—	\$11.91
Health and Environment	\$9.12	—	\$9.12
Employment and Support for Residents	\$2.92	—	\$2.92
Facing Vulnerability			
Effective and Efficient Government	\$2.49	—	\$2.49
Cultural and Recreational Opportunities	\$2.18	—	\$2.18
Housing and Neighborhood Livability	\$0.47	—	\$0.47
Economic Opportunity	\$0.22	—	\$0.22
Mobility and Transportation	\$0.00	—	\$0.00
Agency Reductions and Savings	(\$15.91)	—	(\$15.91)
Subtotal	\$11.70	\$13.07	\$24.77
Reserve Adjustments			(\$2.25)
Total Uses			\$22.52
Available Balance to be set aside			\$20.00

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget

From County Executive Bryan Hill, "At this point, although we are **hopeful** that many of our **revenue categories will rebound** in FY 2022, the timing and breadth of that recovery is uncertain. As you will see, our **strong real estate market** – specifically the residential market – is the primary reason why we will be able to **make some investments in County priorities** in FY 2022."

Schools Transfer

The proposed budget **increases disbursements by just .55% for the County and Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS)**, consistent with the County's practice of equal disbursement growth for both. For FCPS this translates to a **\$14.13 million increase over FY 2021**, short of the \$104.40 million increase requested by FCPS. FCPS represents **52.8%**

of General Fund disbursements in the proposal.

Investing in Board Priorities

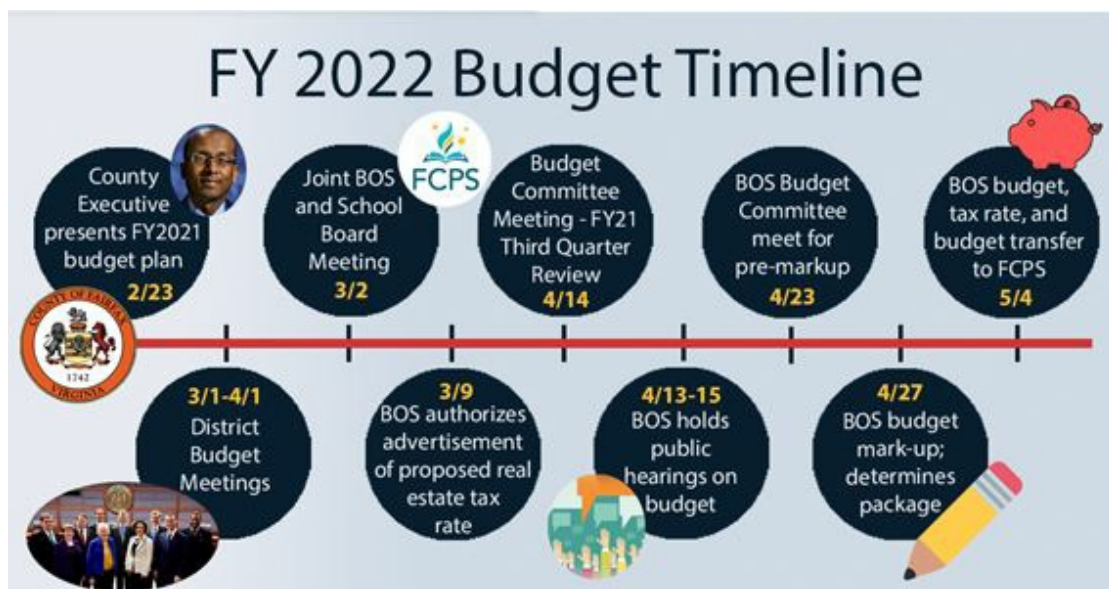
The proposal does incorporate **modest investments in Board priorities**, including **Public Safety staffing, Diversion First, opioid use prevention and environmental initiatives**. As was the case last year, new and increased allocations are mapped to the **priority areas identified** in the [draft Countywide Strategic Plan](#). An updated version of the plan was released today. The budget also includes **109 additional positions**, primarily for the **new South County Police Station** and Scotts Run Fire and Rescue Station facilities and the continuation of previous initiatives including **public health efforts**.

As in FY 2021, the **proposed budget does not include compensation increases** for county employees.

Next Steps

Budget committee meetings take place in March and April, and **public hearings are scheduled for Tuesday through Thursday, April 13-15**. Markup (when the Board makes changes to the advertised budget) takes place on **Tuesday, April 27**, and the **Board adopts the FY 2022 Budget on Tuesday, May 4**.

[Learn more about the proposed budget, timeline and how to submit public comment...](#)



Presentation on the Chairman's Task Force on Equity and Opportunity

After four months of work, the **Chairman's Task Force on Equity and Opportunity** presented its recommendations to the Board. The report and recommendations are the **work of the independent Task Force**.

The Task Force was **established following events across the country** and the ensuing **protests over racial justice**, to examine the **systemic drivers of inequity** in Fairfax County. It was also charged to **provide recommendations** with the goal of moving the County closer to being a **place in which everyone can thrive**. The Task Force was created to **complement and further advance** the existing One Fairfax policy, which was adopted in 2017 to **ensure policy decisions are made with an equity lens**.

There is no question that **inequities, forged over decades** of policy decisions on every level of government, **exist today**. It is our job to do better, **re-examine policies**, and **intentionally make decisions** under an equity lens, building on our One Fairfax policy.

Following the presentation by the Task Force, **the Board voted to send the recommendations to County Executive Bryan Hill** for review and evaluation. It also directed staff to **schedule a Board discussion** at a future Budget Committee meeting.

Administrative Items

Item 9: Approved **Neighborhood and Community Services** to apply for **grant funding** from the U.S. Department of the Treasury for the **Emergency Rental Assistance Program**. If received, this would provide **\$34 million** to allow the County to **continue providing financial assistance** for back and forward rent and utility payments, and other housing expenses. *The full item can be read on pages 119 - 127 of the Board Package.*

Authorized Public Hearings on:

- Sublease of the **Clark-Enyedi House** (10605 Furnace Road) in Mason Neck, owned by the Park Authority, in connection with the **Resident Curator Program**. Public hearing will be held on **March 23 at 4:30 p.m.**
 - **Relocate certain polling places**, including in our District - moving the **Belle View polling location** from the Martha Washington Library **back to Belle View ES**. Public hearing will be held on **March 23 at 4:00 p.m.**
 - Changing the **annual tax relief deadlines** for real estate tax relief, certain personal property tax relief, and rent relief from **April 1 to May 1** of each year. Public hearing will be held on **March 23 at 3:30 p.m.**
 - Establishing **parking restrictions on Gunston Cove Road** in Lorton. Public hearing will be held on **March 23 at 4:00 p.m.**
-

Action Items

Item 3: Initiated the **2021 Redistricting and Reapportionment** of the Board of Supervisors **Election Districts**, including School Board Member Districts and other County District Representatives, such as Planning Commissioners. *The full item can be read on pages 161 - 170 of the Board Package.*

Item 5: Approved the **acceptance of Jeff Todd Way** (Route 619) to the Secondary System of State Highways. *The full item can be read on pages 180 - 184 of the Board Package.*

Public Hearings

Plan Amendment 2020-CW-2CP Housing Element and Workforce Dwelling Unit (WDU) Policy, and Proposed Revisions to the WDU Administrative Policy Guidelines

The Board approved an amendment to the **Workforce Dwelling Unit Policy (WDU Policy)** in the [County's Comprehensive Plan](#). The Countywide WDU Policies **incentivize residential developers** to include **affordable units for households with low- to moderate-incomes** in their new developments. This is key to meeting our **affordable housing needs**. The policy allows developers to receive a **"density bonus"** on their development project of up to 20% in exchange for a **commitment to WDUs across a variety of income levels**. As a result, **more affordable housing** throughout the County is made **available for residents** who may otherwise be housing cost-burdened. This also **creates affordable housing units near transit stations**, where the cost of new housing is usually substantially higher than the median but offers **easy access to public transit**, which many of our low- to moderate- income families **rely on to get to work and other obligations**.

Amendments to the County's Solid Waste Management Ordinance, Chapter 109.1, to Prohibit the Use of Plastic Bags for Yard Waste

The Board approved amendments to Fairfax County's Solid Waste Management ordinance to **prohibit the use of plastic bags for yard waste**. After a year long public information and

education campaign to **promote backyard composting of yard waste and other alternatives to "bagging" yard waste** for collection, the County has banned the use of plastic bags for yard waste collection.

Licensed waste collectors operating in the County send collected yard waste to **commercial composting facilities** in the region. When plastic bags are introduced into the compost process, it is **very difficult to remove plastic shreds** from the final product entirely, resulting in **compost contaminated with plastic**. Plastic in the compost, even in small amounts, reduces overall product quality and **provides a pathway for the plastic to get into our environment**. Removing this plastic from our yard waste process is one step towards **reducing the impact of microplastics** on our natural environment.

This **change goes into effect on March 1, 20** for all yard waste removal. [More information and strategies for managing and bagging yard waste without the use of plastic bags...](#)

Board Matters

Recognizing March as Alternative Dispute Resolution Month

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) refers to a number of **processes and techniques used to manage and resolve conflict**. ADR is an alternative to traditional adversarial processes and **helps disputing parties reach mutually agreeable outcomes** that consider the needs of all involved and minimize cost, while improving communication and morale. Alternative Dispute Resolution services have been **especially helpful during the pandemic** as stress and isolation have played a part in creating and intensifying conflict.

Fairfax County has historically celebrated **March as ADR month**, and each year chooses a **leader in this field to receive recognition**. This year's recipient is **Dr. Pamela Struss**, who is an **Adjunct Professor at the Carter School for Peace and Conflict** at George Mason University. Dr. Struss teaches **mediation theory, interpersonal conflict and conflict resolution classes**, and she is an active mediation practitioner who has been certified by the Supreme Court of Virginia. Additionally, Dr. Struss focuses on **creating opportunities for awareness and understanding** between people in communities that have experienced racial inequities, and seeks strategies for **building bridges between communities**.

Action

Directed recognition of March as Alternative Dispute Resolution Month in Fairfax County and that a proclamation be presented out of the Board room to Dr. Pamela Struss.

District Information & Upcoming Events

Learn about the Potential HOD for the Wellington at River Farm Area

The County is considering the **creation of a Historic Overlay District (HOD)** for the **Wellington at River Farm property**. The public is invited to join County staff for a **virtual Community Meeting on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.** Staff will present preliminary findings, including the **potential boundary of the HOD**, preliminary determinations for contributing and non-contributing properties of the HOD, **draft HOD design guidelines and more**. [Meeting details and more information...](#)



WMATA Budget Public Comment Period

The public comment period for **Metro's Fiscal Year 2022 budget** is now open. The 2022 proposed service plan considers **service cuts and workforce reductions** if additional funding is not secured. These PDF maps reflect the **Metrorail and Metrobus changes under consideration**.

- Metrorail Map (January 2022 open/closed stations)
- Metrobus Consolidated Route Network Map (January 2022 service)

[View the full proposed FY22 budget in multiple languages...](#)
[Take the public feedback survey...](#)

PPP Loans, Economic Injury Disaster Loan grants, and Fairfax Rise grants are NOT to be included in "gross receipts" for purposes of computing BPOL taxes.

Extraordinary COVID-19 loans/grants such as economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL), Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans, and Fairfax Rise grants **can be excluded from taxable gross receipts** when filing your **Business, Professional and Occupational License (BPOL) tax returns**. PPP loans that are not yet forgiven are **expressly excluded from gross receipts** for purposes of computing County BPOL taxes by Virginia Code and the County's BPOL ordinance Tax Commissioner.

More information on BPOL can be found at [Business Taxes - Frequently Asked Questions | Tax Administration \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#) and in the [Fairfax County Newscenter article](#).

Smart City Challenge Finale and Awards

The Smart City Challenge (hosted by Refraction, Smart City Works, Fairfax County, Virginia Tech and others) is a **month-long innovation competition** for the best solutions to our **pressing challenges in transportation, broadband, housing, health, public safety and more**. The Challenge Finale and Awards event is this **Thursday, February 23 from 6-8:30 p.m.** Watch 11 finalists **pitch live to win \$350,000+ in prizes**. Speakers/judges include U.S. Senator **Mark Warner**, Fairfax County Chairman **Jeff McKay**, Dominion Energy **Bob Blue**, Clark Construction CFO **Sameer Bhargava** and DC CTO **Lindsey Parker**. [Register here...](#)



BRT Branding & Station Design Meetings and Survey

To gather **additional community input** on a different topic, we have re-opened our **station design survey**, and will keep it open **through March 1**. On this survey, we are seeking **community input on two station design concepts** for the BRT system. These concepts were originally presented to the community at two meetings in November 2020.

The surveys are brief. We show images for each of two station design concepts and then ask questions about the concepts. We also seek **input on community "charm," or features that respondents would like to see** reflected in the final station design.

Branding Survey (English); (Español)
 Station Design Survey (English); (Español)
 Meeting Recording (English); (Español)
[Watch the meeting and take the survey...](#)

COVID-19 Updates

[COVID-19 Vaccination Partners Expand in Fairfax Health District](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions About COVID-19 Vaccine Registration](#)

[What You Need to Know When You Get Vaccinated AND After You Get Vaccinated](#)

[COVID-19 Symptoms Can Last for Months for "Long Haulers"](#)

[Vaccine Dashboard Now Live Featuring Dose and Registration Data; Registration Status Checker Also Available](#)

[Fairfax Health District Not Participating in Statewide COVID-19 Vaccine Registration System At This Time](#)

[Fairfax Water's Deadline for the COVID-19 Municipal Utility Relief Program Extended](#)

[Federal Government to Begin Distributing COVID-19 Vaccines to Select CVS Locations](#)

[Suicide Prevention During COVID-19: Warning Signs of Suicide](#)

Governor Announces Changes To COVID-19 Executive Order Restrictions Effective March 1

Gov. Ralph Northam today announced that as **COVID-19 hospitalizations and infection rates continue to decline** and vaccinations rise in Virginia, certain outdoor sports and entertainment venues may begin to operate at **increased capacity starting Monday, March 1**. He amended Executive Order 72 with the next steps to safely and gradually ease public health restrictions while **mitigating the spread of the virus**.

The key changes in Executive Order 72 include:

- The limit for **social gatherings** is currently 10 people for both indoor and outdoor events. Effective March 1, this limit will **increase to 25 for outdoor gatherings, but remain at 10 indoors**.
- **Outdoor entertainment and public amusement venues** will be able to operate with up to **1,000 individuals or at 30 percent capacity**, whichever is lower. If current trends continue, these venues may be able to operate at 30 percent capacity with no cap on the number of people permitted to attend starting in April. Indoor entertainment and public amusement venues must continue to operate at **30 percent capacity with a cap of 250 people**. All entertainment venues were previously limited to a maximum of 250 individuals.
- **Dining establishments:** The on-site sale, consumption, and possession of alcohol will be **permitted until midnight**, extended from 10 p.m. All restaurants, dining establishments, food courts, breweries, microbreweries, distilleries, wineries, and tasting rooms still must be closed between midnight and 5 a.m.
- As of May 1, **overnight summer camps** will be able to open with **strict mitigation measures in place**. Registration can begin now.

[Read the Governor's Announcement..](#)

[Read the Updated Executive Order 72..](#)

[Read Updated Guidelines for Specific Sectors..](#)

More Good News on Vaccines

Giant Pharmacy has agreed to formally partner with the Fairfax Health Department to will be **vaccinating people registered in our system**.

Vaccinations will begin with **four locations, with more locations to be announced** later this week. These stores will serve as **alternatives to County facility sites. Residents in our existing queue** who are being offered an appointment by the County when their turn comes up, **will have the option of choosing which Giant location**. Again, Giant will be through the County's registration list, **please do not show up at these locations without an appointment**.

- 7501 Huntsman Boulevard, Springfield
- 6364A Springfield Plaza, Springfield
- 5740 Union Mill Road, Clifton
- 5870 Kingstowne Boulevard, Alexandria

This partnership will **improve access for our residents** and help expedite our vaccination process. There is still a **nationwide shortage of vaccine** that has slowed our ability to vaccinate, but **supply is improving**. This week we got 16,000 vaccine doses, up from 13,500 last week. **We need your patience, we are getting through the queue as fast as possible**.

Mask up, Virginia!

You may not know you're sick.

- Not everyone with COVID-19 feels or looks sick.
- We all need to wear cloth masks to stop the spread.
- You can help save lives.



**VIRGINIA'S
HEALTH
IS IN YOUR
HANDS.**

Do your part,
stop the spread.

vdh.virginia.gov



VDH VIRGINIA
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OF HEALTH



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